



Environmental Loans Programs

Learn about the Environmental Loans programs and find guidance at dnr.wi.gov/Aid/EIF.html

Funding for drinking water, wastewater, & storm water projects

The Wisconsin Environmental Improvement Fund (EIF) programs provide low-cost financing to municipalities for drinking water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure projects. It includes projects for compliance with a municipality's Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit.

Implementation details are outlined in the governing Wisconsin State Statutes and Administrative Codes:

- ss. 281.58 and 281.59 and 281.61, Wis. Stats.
- chs. NR 162 and 166, Wis. Adm. Code

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The EIF includes two environmental financing programs (*with subprograms*) for local governments:

- **Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP)** for wastewater and storm water projects, since 1991.
- **Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP)** for drinking water projects, since 1998.

The Wisconsin EIF is a state revolving loan fund that combines federal capitalization grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) with state funding to provide financial assistance to municipalities in the form of **subsidized loans** (below market rate). Some municipalities may also be eligible for funding in the form of **principal forgiveness**.

- View current interest rates at dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/EIF/Guide/Interest.html

Benefits and advantages

- Dedicated DNR project manager and construction management engineer.
- Coordinates with other federal and state funding sources.
- Provides subsidized fixed-interest rates on long term loans.
- Accepts 20-year General Obligation (GO) promissory notes as well as bonds.
- Accepts GO, Revenue, and Special Assessment pledges with the same interest rate on each type.

Who may apply?

Eligible applicants and funding recipients, also referred to as **municipalities** or **local governments**, include: Wisconsin cities, towns, villages, counties, town sanitary districts, county utility districts, municipal water districts, metropolitan sewerage districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, joint local water authorities (created under s. 66.0823, Wis. Stats.), and federally recognized American Indian tribes or bands in Wisconsin.

How do we apply for funding?

Application guidance and considerations are available under the How to Apply tab on our webpage at dnr.wi.gov/Aid/EIF.html#tabx3

- Pre-Application Deadline: All Intents to Apply (ITAs) & Priority Evaluations and Ranking Formulas (PERFs) must be submitted online by **October 31st** for the following state fiscal year funding cycle.
- Application Deadlines are available at dnr.wi.gov/Aid/EIF.html#tabx5



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Programs provide loans at or below the market interest rate

On a quarterly basis, the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) assesses the market interest rate on which the Environmental Loans program subsidies are based. The Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) provide **subsidized loans** (low interest rates) to municipalities for drinking water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure projects.

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PROGRAM / PROJECT TYPE	PERCENT OF MARKET RATE	INTEREST RATE
CWFP For the portion of eligible projects for receiving and storing septage, and capacity for treating septage; as well as for mercury remediation at wastewater treatment facilities.	0%	0%
CWFP For eligible projects of extremely disadvantaged municipalities meeting the following financial need criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• < 1,000 population; and• ≤ 65% of Wisconsin median household income (MHI).	0%	0%
CWFP and SDWLP For eligible projects of disadvantaged municipalities meeting the following financial need criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• < 10,000 population; and• ≤ 80% of Wisconsin median household income (MHI).	33%	1.122%
CWFP and SDWLP For eligible projects of municipalities not meeting financial need criteria.	55%	1.870%
MARKET RATE (effective 07/01/2018 – 09/30/2018)	100%	3.400%

The DOA has set the market interest rate at 3.400% for the quarter beginning July 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018. For loans closing during said quarter (*determined by the date of the municipal meeting at which the Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA) is signed*), the loan interest rate will be determined based on the market rate of 3.400%:

- Eligible CWFP pilot projects may be awarded loans with an interest rate as low as 0%.
- The portion of eligible CWFP projects for receiving and storing septage, and capacity for treating septage will receive an interest rate of 0%.
- CWFP loans, provided at 0% of the market rate, will be awarded with an interest rate of 0%.
- CWFP and SDWLP loans, provided at 33% of the market rate, will be awarded with an interest rate of 1.122%.
- CWFP and SDWLP loans, provided at 55% of the market rate, will be awarded with an interest rate of 1.870%.